

# Donation to boost proposed trail

Former  
grocer gives  
\$50,000 to  
land trust  
to help  
secure a  
12½-acre  
piece of  
property for  
Cape Horn  
Trail

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Columbian staff writer

A \$50,000 check from a Camas man will enable a Vancouver non-profit organization to complete the final link to a trail that will connect Washougal to Cape Horn in the Columbia River Gorge.

Norm Danielson, who owned and operated four Thriftway grocery stores, donated the final amount needed to secure a 12½-acre piece of property near the proposed Cape Horn Trail. Danielson's contribution to the nonprofit Columbia Land Trust brings to \$105,000 the amount raised by the organization to help the U.S. Forest Service buy the property.

The land trust announced the donation Thursday.



The Forest Service, in turn, will contribute \$130,000, which the agency deemed fair market value for the property. The landowner, who the Forest Service and land

**TRAIL, back page**

## Trail

*Land trust official expects to  
acquire property before July 1*

From page A1

trust declined to identify, has agreed to sell the property for an amount that includes the Forest Service's contribution, plus the \$105,000 raised by the land trust.

"We're hoping in the next couple of weeks to close that," said Mike Ferris, public affairs officer for the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area.

Glenn Lamb, land trust executive director, said he expects to have the property acquired for public use before July 1. Although the Forest Service still is negotiating with Don Cannard for property he owns just to the east of the Cape Horn area, the donation this week will enable the agency to connect a major portion of the gorge trail.

"This is such a big moment," Lamb said. "The Washougal-to-Stevenson trail has been a citizen-based and citizen-inspired vision, and this is the first major step to make that trail a reality. To me, it demonstrates the strength that comes from private-citizen initiative."

Earlier this year, Lamb made a public appeal for money necessary to close the deal.

On Tuesday, Danielson stepped forward.

"I'd much rather give to my community now, than give to the IRS after I'm gone," he said in a statement released by the land trust.

The half-mile piece of land is a critical segment for the Cape Horn Trail, which will traverse six miles of newly acquired national forest land from Lawton Creek, east of Washougal, to beyond the top of Cape Horn — 500 feet above the state Highway 14 overlook.

Last year, the land trust used a donation from Broughton and Mary Bishop to buy a \$10,000 option to purchase the land at Cape Horn.

Ferris said the federal government has \$150,000 to build a hiking trail from east of the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge to Pioneer Point at Cape Horn. The money was provided through an appropriations bill sponsored by U.S. Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., in 1997.

Ferris said the trail itself probably won't be completed for another two years, due to environmental reviews and survey requirements for obscure plants and wildlife. He said building the trail all the way to Stevenson could prove to be dicey, given the impasse over the Cannard piece and concerns by other landowners about opening public access near their properties.